trol industrial pollution are as follows:

Year	Number of units closed
1992-93	51
1993-94	26
1994-95	30
	107

Apart from these 107 industries, the Hon'ble Supreme Court had on different dates ordered the closure of more than 500 industrial units in the Taj Trapezium Zone and in the Ganga Basin. The compliance of these industries is being monitored by the Hon'ble Court.

(c) These 107 industries belong to 13 categories, namely Aluminium Smelter, Cement, Distillery, Dyes & Dye Intermediate Fertilizer, Leather, Pesticide, Petrochemical, Basic Drugs & Pharmaceuticals, Pulp & Paper, Oil Refinery, Sugar and Thermal Power Plant.

(d) None of the 107 units is presently in operation.

Furs of Wild Species seized in Darjeeling

1279. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent past Darjeeling Police have reportedly arrested a person in Darjeeling town with a truck load of valuable furs, allegedly belonging to precious wild species from Hamilayan region worth crores of rupees in international market;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the same has been handed over to the authorities of wildlife Department in Darjeeling by the local police authorities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH); (a) Yes, Sir. The international market value of these seized product is however not likely to be more than Rs. 1 lakh.

(b) and (c) The State Government have reported that 190 Kgs of animal fur was seized by the Police from Darjeeling town and the case was handed over to the State Wildlife Authorities. The consignment was got examined by the Zoological survey of India who have reported that it contains mixed furs of flying squirrels and cats.

Allotment of forest land

1280. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen an article by the famous journalists, Usha Rai, headlined "Government Plans to put a lifeline on rent";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Government are considering leasing out forest lands to industries;

(c) if so, what is the rationale thereof;

(d) whether Government would like to allot such lands on long-term lease to tribals, farmers, ex-servicemen and educated unemployed persons; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH); (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to lease forest lands to industries. However, in view of the increasing threat of encroachment upon the large quantum of degraded forest land in the country and the need to afforest it urgently so as to expand green cover, inhibit encroachment and half soil denudation and also to meet fuel and fodder needs and thereby to reduce pressure on existing natural forests and protected areas, the Government is considering to involve industry in afforestation of severely degraded areas in partnership with State Forest Development Corporations so as to augment the efforts, of Govt., N.GO's and peoples co-operatives and to increase the financial resources available for afforestation schemes of the Central and State Governments.

The Scheme under consideration will be finalised only after careful assessment of various issues involved, and ensuring protection of traditional rights and concessions being enjoyed by the rural and tribal communities. As envisioned, the scheme is also intended to benefit rural and tribal communities by increasing the availability of biomass, fuelwood and fodder, and opening up avenues for rural employment generation.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal to allot forest lands on lease to tribals, farmers etc. However, regeneration and development of degraded forests through people's participation on usufructs sharing basis is an important approach of forest management in India. It is in this context that the Government of India issued in June 1990, guidelines highlighting the need and the procedure to be adopted for the involvement of village communities and voluntary agencies in the protection and development of degraded forests. In pursuance of these guidelines, 15 States have issued orders/resolutions providing for the village communities to share usufructs from adjoining degraded forest areas that they agree to protect and develop. This programme will continue concurrently in other earmarked areas.

Low conviction rate in wild life offences

1281. SHRI O. P. KOHLI :Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that low conviction rate for wildlife offences is one of the major causes of the country's dwindling wild life resources;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make the Wild Life Protection Act more stringent and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Subramaniam Panel Report of the Ministry of Environment and Forests has recommended the setting up of at least one special court in every State to obviate the delay in disposing of court cases pertaining to wild life offences; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) It is a fact that there have been delays in conviction of cases related to wildlife offences, which has led to decline of wildlife in some cases.

(b) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 was last amended in 1991 to make it more stringent and effective. At present there is no proposal to amend the Act.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The setting up of Special Courts in every State will depend on the number of forest and wildlife offence cases pending disposal. We are collecting these details from State Govts. for further action.